



Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz July 14, 2014

I would like to take a moment and say thank you to all of you that recently completed the survey regarding waiver graduation rates, and remind you if you haven't already to please complete the survey regarding assessments. Your input is very valuable and I appreciate the time you take to share your thoughts. The assessment survey will remain open through July 25th. ([survey](#))

Also of important note in this Dialogue is the summary regarding the assessment resolution that was passed by the State Board of Education last week, as well as the information regarding the 2014/2015 assessment blueprint that is now available on the IDOE website.

Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction



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ESEA Flexibility Waiver

ESEA Flexibility Waiver : The Indiana Department of Education submitted its application for a waiver from aspects of No Child Left Behind. The application was submitted to the United States Department of Education. A copy of the waiver application can be found here <http://www.doe.in.gov/esea>. If you have any questions please contact Jeff Coyne at jcoyne@doe.in.gov

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IDOE Memoranda

MEMORANDUM : The Excellence in Performance Awards, totaling \$2 million, are awarded to school corporations and charter schools (corporations) for teachers rated Highly Effective for 2013-2014 in Title I Focus and Priority schools based on 2013 student achievement data. Those Highly Effective teachers must be in leadership roles

during the 2014-2015 school year and a school corporation must have an evaluation plan that meets the requirements (IC 20-28-11.5) to be eligible.

The purpose of this competitive grant is to retain Highly Effective teachers in Title I Focus and Priority schools. District or charter schools must submit a plan that places Highly Effective teachers in leadership roles that will utilize their talents to increase the capacity to develop more highly effective teachers. Late submissions will not be accepted. *Since this round of Excellence in Performance grant is competitive, the district will need to decide the amount of cash award each Highly Effective teacher will receive through this grant for the leadership role.*

The IDOE will be allocating \$2 million for this grant during the 2014-2015 school year. For application information, [click on this link](#)

MEMORANDUM: Test blueprints for the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for grades 3-8, based on the college- and career-ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards, are now posted on the following IDOE Web page: <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>. Please see the [attached memorandum](#) for details.

MEMORANDUM: Assessment Survey for District and Building Level Administrators and Teachers: As the Indiana Department of Education seeks to redesign the formative and summative assessment program we would like field input. Please click here to answer a quick 9 question survey. ([LINK](#)) The survey will remain open until July 25th. Please spread the word about this opportunity to your teaching staff, as we certainly want as much input as possible. <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/k-12-school-assessments-indiana>

MEMORANDUM: At the July 9 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the *Resolution to Adopt K-12 Assessments*. The contents of this Resolution guide the development of a Request For Proposals (RFP). The RFP process enables the IDOE to contract with one or more test vendors for assessments in 2015-16 and beyond. Any changes to the assessment program in Indiana as a result of this process would not take effect until 2015-16. Please also see attached for the final [memorandum](#) and resolution. ([see assessment memorandum](#))

MEMORANDUM: The Assessment Office in conjunction with the Data Collection and Reporting Team and Accountability have reached out to Corporation Test Coordinators and Data Reporting Personnel for assistance with resolving test scores that have been returned to IDOE as unmatched. ([see memorandum](#)) **The window for resolving all unknown test records opened Friday July 11th, 2014 and will close after ISTEP+ 2014 unknown test records are verified.** The target close date for Unknown Test Records is August 1st., although an announcement with the exact close date will be forthcoming (once 2014 ISTEP+/IMAST rescores are received). The [entire memo sent to Corporation Test Coordinators and Data Managers can be found here](#)

MEMORANDUM: The NEWEST, summer edition of the Indiana Farm to School Newsletter is ready to view! Read about the farm to school happenings in our own state. A preview of the featured farm to school stories...

- What does farm to school (F2S) mean to you?
- What I like most about F2S is it's many facets.
- A school nutritionist looks at F2S as an opportunity to talk about making healthy eating choices.
- A local farmer may see it as an avenue to expand into another market.
- In my chosen profession, I talk about agriculture every day. My name is Greg Schneider and I teach high school "Ag".

Starting in the next academic year, the cattle, which arrived last month and have names like Ground Round and Honey Bear, will be fed by students enrolled in an agricultural science class. Click [here](#) to read more.

MEMORANDUM: Unused Instructional Facilities, IC 20-26-7-1 requires that not later than August 1 each calendar year, each governing body shall inform the department if a school building that was previously used for classroom instruction is closed, unused, or unoccupied. All public school corporations must report unused instructional facilities

as part of its DOE Master File between July 14, 2014 through August 1, 2014. The Master File can be found at the following link: <https://dc.doe.state.in.us/DOEOnline/Login.aspx>. Questions may be sent to Jeff Barber by email at jbarber@doe.in.gov or by telephone at (317) 232-9143. Questions regarding the Master File/School Directory (DOE-MF) should be directed to Amy Hart by email at sday@doe.in.gov or by telephone at (317) 234-0867. ([see memorandum](#))

MEMORANDUM: Backpack Attack, The Indiana Department of Education is excited to be joining 160 other agencies and companies to collect school supplies for the nearly 33,000 Marion County students needing help with back to school supplies. After the supplies have been collected and sorted, students and families needing help with back to school supplies will be invited to a "Distribution Day" at Tech High School.

Collection bins are located on the 5th floor of the PNC Building by the elevators, the 6th floor of the PNC Building in the lobby, and at the Statehouse outside of Room 227. If you have questions regarding the Back-to-School Supply Drive or bin placement, contact DeVonne Richburg at drichburg@doe.in.gov. Drive Dates: June 24-July 22

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Professional Development

Education Service Centers will be offering RISE Teacher Evaluation Training between June 2014 and September 2014. Below are the scheduled dates and their registration sites:

- West Central ESC: July 21-22, 2014 (<http://www.wciesc.k12.in.us>)
- Wilson Center ESC: July 21-22, 2014 (<http://www.wesc.k12.in.us>)
- Region 8 ESC: July 23-24, 2014 (<http://www.r8esc.k12.in.us>)
- Northern Indiana ESC: July 29-31, 2014 (<http://www.niesc.k12.in.us>)
- Wabash Valley ESC: July 29-30, 2014 (<http://www.esc5.k12.in.us>)
- Southern Indiana ESC: August 27-28, 2014 (<http://www.siec.k12.in.us>)
- Northwest Indiana ESC: September 4-5, 2014 (<http://www.nwiesc.k12.in.us>)
- Central Indiana ESC: September 18-19, 2014 (<http://www.ciesc.k12.in.us>)

Central Indiana Educational Services, (CIESC) offers a variety of professional learning workshops, to view these events visit www.ciesc.k12.in.us, view events calendar on right side bar or click on Services, then Professional Learning.

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Legislative & Policy Updates

For updates, check out the our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Information from Other Agencies

Learn More Indiana needs your feedback! If you're not familiar with the program, Learn More Indiana is an initiative of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education that provides resources and information to help Hoosier students and families plan for college. Please take a few minutes and complete a short survey to help the program improve its website, www.LearnMoreIndiana.org.

Your feedback will help the program better understand how its site can be an effective resource to guide students and their families in the college planning process. Responses are confidential. Your name will not be asked for or shared with anyone and any information provided will be used for research purposes only. Please follow this link to participate in the survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/learnmoreindiana

Food and Nutrition Service - Extension of the Deadline for Local Educational Agencies to Submit Applications to Elect the Community Eligibility Provision.

One important goal of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) is to ensure every American child has access to the nutrition they need to grow into healthy adults. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a powerful tool to ensure children in low income communities have access to healthy meals at school. CEP allows participating high-poverty schools to offer healthy free lunches and breakfasts to all students without requiring their families to complete individual applications. Once initial eligibility and claiming percentages are established under CEP, they are guaranteed for four school years.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes that many LEAs may need additional time to consider and apply for CEP, so the deadline for LEAs to elect to participate in CEP in school year 2014-2015 has been extended to August 31, 2014. The CEP webpage (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>) includes Title I guidance, Q&A guidance, and tools to assist LEAs as they consider implementing this important provision. The USDA memo is attached.

Hands in Autism, Bus rides can be challenging for many students and students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are no different. However, with a basic understanding of ASD and tooled with some practical and proactive strategies, the bus driver and staff can set up for successful and safe bus drives to and from school.

As a result of this training, you will:

- Develop an understanding of characteristic strengths and challenges of students on the autism spectrum.
- Learn practical strategies for setting up for successful bus rides to and from school.
- Learn strategies for working effectively as a team with school staff and families to address behavioral issues on the bus.

For [more information](#) and registration information please visit: <https://handsinautism.iupui.edu/workshops.html>

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